Appl. No. 09/642,352
Amdt. dated March 15, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-18. (Cancelled).

19.   (Currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

a plurality of computer components;

a plurality of biometric sensors;

a remotely located control unit coupled to said plurality of biometric sensors; and

a plurality of locks coupled to and controlled by said control unit;

wherein each of said plurality of biometric sensors and said locks are associated with corresponding a computer components and said plurality of locks prevents said plurality of computer components from being removed from said computer system unless authorized by the remotely located control unit.

20.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 19 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of biometric sensors comprises a fingerprint scanner.

21.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 19 wherein at least one or more of said biometric sensors comprises an iris scanner.

22.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 19 wherein one or more of said plurality of locks comprises an electromechanical lock.

23.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 19 further including a registry stored in memory accessible by said control unit, said registry including a

biometric template for each person authorized to unlock <u>one or more of the</u> <u>plurality of</u> a locks.

24.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 23 wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity of a person that has activated a <u>one of the</u> <u>plurality of</u> biometric sensor<u>s</u> by using the templates stored in said registry.

25.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 24 wherein said control unit unlocks a <u>one of the plurality of</u> lock<u>s</u> if said control unit successfully verifies the authenticity of a person.

26.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 23 wherein said control unit maintains a <u>the</u> lock in a locked state if said control unit cannot verify the authenticity of a person.

27.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 19 wherein <u>each of</u> said <u>plurality of</u> biometric sensor<u>s</u> is associated with <u>a corresponding one of said</u> a plurality of computer components.

28.   (Currently amended) A security method for a computer system including a plurality of computer components <u>each including an associated biometric sensor</u> <u>and a control unit coupled to the plurality of biometric sensors</u>, comprising:

    (a)   using a <u>one of the</u> biometric sensor<u>s</u> to verify the authenticity of a person; and

    <u>(b)   sending a signal to the control unit in order to verify the person; and</u>

    (c)   permitting use of a <u>the</u> computer component <u>associated with the</u> <u>biometric sensor used in (a)</u> if the person is successfully verified <u>by</u> <u>the control unit</u>.

29.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein <u>at least one of</u> said biometric sensor<u>s</u> comprises a fingerprint sensor.

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30.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said biometric sensors comprises an iris scanner.

31.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer component comprises a storage device.

32.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer components comprises a storage device and (b) includes permitting a user to read data from said storage device.

33.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer components comprises a storage device and (b) includes permitting a user to write data to said storage device.

34.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer components comprises a storage device and (b) includes permitting a user to read data from and write data to said storage device.

35.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer component comprises a CD ROM.

36.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer component comprises a hard disk drive.

37.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein (a) is performed when a software program needs to access one of said computer components.

38.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 37 wherein at least one of said computer components comprises a storage device.

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39.   (Original) The method of claim 28 further including:

    (d)   associating a person with use of a computer component.

40.   (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein (d) includes acquiring a biometric image from said person and associating a security access code with said biometric image.

41.   (Currently amended) A biometric access system for a computer system that includes a plurality of computer devices, comprising:

    a plurality of biometric sensors, each of said plurality of biometric sensors associated with one of said plurality of computer devices;

    a control unit coupled to said plurality of biometric sensors, said control unit controlling logical access to a-the plurality of computer devices in said computer system based on a-signals from one or more of said biometric sensors.

42.   (Currently amended) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein at least one of said plurality of biometric sensors comprises a fingerprint scanner.

43.   (Currently amended) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein at least one of said biometric sensors comprises an iris scanner.

44.   (Currently amended) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said control unit permits a person to access one of said plurality of computer devices based on a signal from the said-biometric sensor associated with the computer device that the person is trying to access.

45.   (Currently amended) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said control unit prevents a person from accessing one of said plurality of said computer devices based on a signal from its associated said-biometric sensor.

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46.   (Original) The biometric access system of claim 41 further including a registry accessible by said control unit, said registry including biometric templates of people that are permitted use of various of said computer devices.

47.   (Original) The biometric access system of claim 46 wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity of a person that has activated a biometric sensor by using the templates stored in said registry.

48.   (Currently amended) The biometric access system of claim 47 wherein said control unit permits a user to use <u>one of said</u> a-<u>plurality of</u> computer device<u>s</u> if said control unit successfully verifies the authenticity of a person.

49.   (Currently amended) The biometric access system of claim 48 wherein <u>at least one of</u> said <u>plurality of</u> computer device<u>s</u> comprises a storage device.

50.   (Currently amended) The biometric access system of claim 47 wherein said control unit prevents a user from using <u>one of said plurality of</u> a-computer device<u>s</u> if said control unit cannot verify the authenticity of the person.

51.   (Currently amended) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said-<u>at least one of the</u> computer device<u>s</u> comprises a storage device.

52.-63. (Cancelled).

64.   (Currently amended) A security system for a computer system comprising a plurality of computer equipment, said security system comprising:

    a <u>plurality of</u> biometric sensor<u>s</u>;

    a control unit coupled to said <u>plurality of</u> biometric sensor<u>s</u>; and

    a <u>plurality of</u> lock<u>s</u> <u>associated with one of said plurality of biometric sensors, the plurality of locks</u> coupled to and controlled by said control unit;

wherein each of said plurality of biometric sensors and said plurality of locks are associated with one of said plurality of computer equipment comprising said computer system, each of said locks preventing its corresponding said computer equipment from being removed from said computer system and said lock can be unlocked upon a person being authenticated by the control unit via said its corresponding biometric sensor, and wherein said computer equipment can not be used unless a person is authenticated using said biometric sensor.

65.   (New) A security system as defined in claim 64, wherein the control unit is located remotely from the computer system.

66.   (New) A security system as defined in claim 64, further comprising:
        a rack for holding the plurality of computer equipment.

67.   (New) A security system as defined in claim 66, wherein the plurality of locks help secure each of the plurality of computer equipment to the rack.

68.   (New) A security system as defined in claim 64, wherein the plurality of computer equipment comprise a plurality of servers.

69.   (New) A security system as defined in claim 65, further including a registry stored in memory accessible by said control unit, said registry including a template for each person authorized to unlock one or more of the plurality of locks.

70.   (New) A security system as defined in claim 69, wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity of a person that has activated one of

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the plurality of biometric sensors by using the templates stored in said registry.

71.   (New) A security system as defined in claim 64, wherein the biometric sensor is selected from among a fingerprint sensor and an iris scanner.